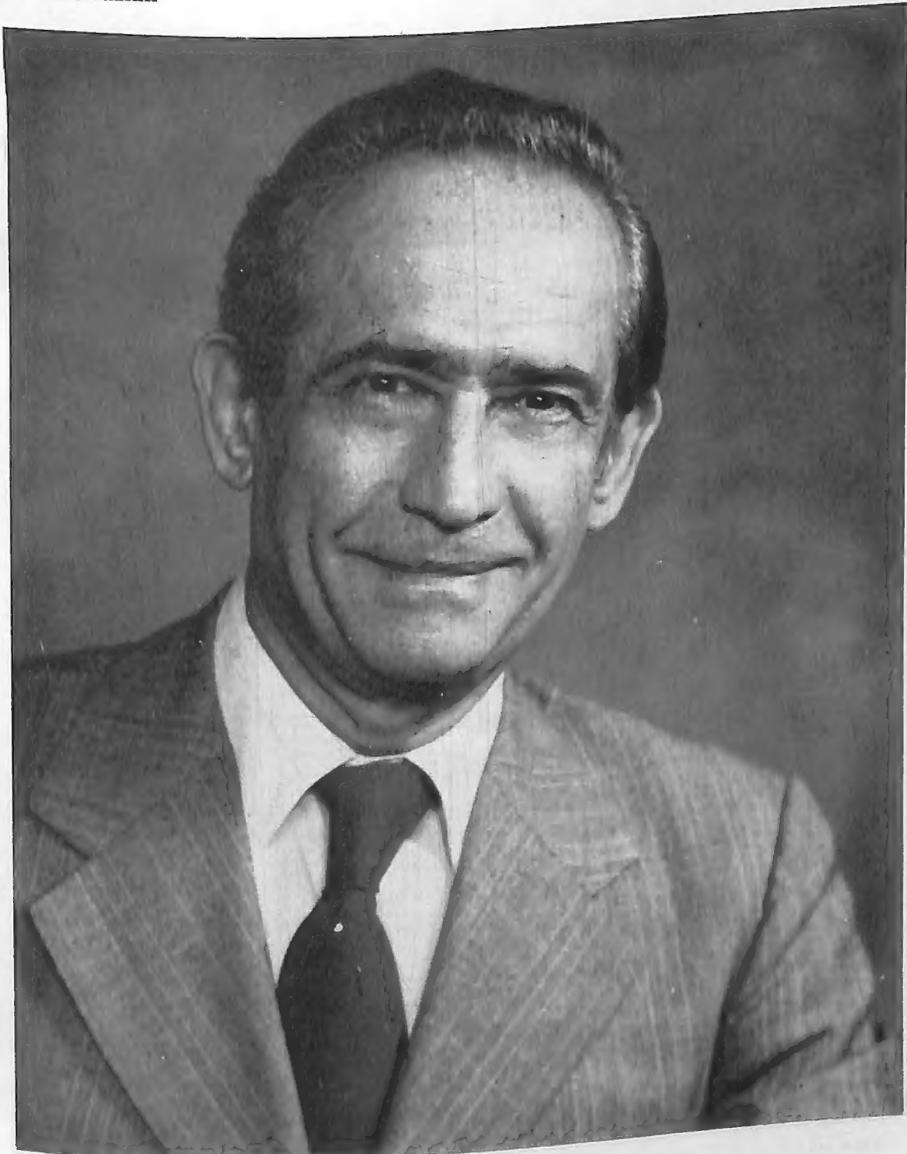


AMAA

News

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**THE REVEREND
G.H. CHOPOURIAN, Ph.D.**

THE RIGHT MAN AT THE RIGHT TIME

The Apostle Paul writing to the Romans (12:7) states: "Render therefore to all men their dues; tribute to whom tribute is due." Hence, it is very appropriate that we acknowledge Rev. G. H. Chopourian's unique service to the AMAA and with admiration, gratitude and respect, dedicate this issue of the AMAA Newsletter to him on the occasion of his calling himself to retirement.

ALPHA—The Beginning

It was in 1969, during my first term as

President of the AMAA, that Dr. Chopourian was appointed Executive Secretary of the organization. Upon assuming his duties, I remember lucidly the question raised by a few prominent members of the Armenian Evangelical movement. "Couldn't you find a better person than Giragos Chopourian?" they asked me. Frankly, I did feel a little dubious because I did not know him too intimately and was not aware of all his abilities. However, if the same question was asked today, my

outright response would be, "No, we did not find a better man, we found the best man."

Eighteen years of faithful, devoted and dedicated service not only to the AMAA, but to the Armenian Evangelicals all over the world must be recognized and tribute paid to him. History shows us that although Winston Churchill's Gallipoli Expedition in World War I was an utter failure, yet his leadership during World War II was an important factor for the vic-

—Nazar Y. Daghlian

A LOVING TRIBUTE TO DR. G.H. CHOPOURIAN

This issue of the AMAA News is gratefully and affectionately dedicated to The Rev. Dr. G.H. Chopourian who retired from his position of Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA) and terminated his close to 19 years of vital ministry with the Association as of July 31, 1987.

Through the pages of this special issue, we intend to share in the observance of the well-earned and deserved retirement of Dr. Chopourian as well as honor him for his "outstanding service rendered with unwavering loyalty and excellence to the cause of Armenian Evangelical missions reaching out to the Armenian people worldwide."

Then, too, in dedicating this issue to Dr. Chopourian we wish to allow our readers to participate in our thanksgiving and celebration for the ministry of a person, who, through his service to the AMAA, has played such an important role in the life of so many religious, educational, charitable and cultural institutions and organizations in the Armenian diaspora.

The tributes printed in the following pages come from church and community leaders who have known first-hand the amazing impact of Dr. Chopourian's ministry. We have presented AMAA President, Mr. Nazar Y. Daghlian's article, "The Right Man at the Right Time" as the editorial of our issue. It represents the loving tribute of a grateful AMAA missionary family. Part of Mr. Daghlian's article is from the official AMAA tribute given at the banquet honoring Dr. Chopourian on

May 31.

Due to limited space, we were compelled to include only excerpts gleaned from the testimonial messages by clergymen and personalities representing various church bodies and organizations of different countries. These tributes, and the hundreds of others received from all over the world, demonstrate the high esteem in which Dr. Chopourian is held in the Armenian community worldwide.

Indeed, Dr. Chopourian is universally loved and respected as a man, as a minister of the Gospel and as an inspiring Christian personality. The many commendatory remarks on his insightful writings, inspiring preaching, unselfish devotion and rare human qualities clearly show that he is widely recognized as one of the most influential Armenian church leaders of our time.

Our issue offers a welcome opportunity to this writer, an intimate friend and a colleague of Dr. Chopourian, to testify that this modest person, never sought the plaudits that have meritiously come to him. In his life, as in his ministry, he only strived to be a faithful servant of his Lord and his people. He often lost himself, and sometimes even forgot his gracious wife, Mrs. Yeprouhi Chopourian, and his children in that noble striving. But as is always true of those who totally commit themselves to the Lord, he found affection and respect from the people whom he served in Christ's name.

Dr. Chopourian, ever true to the vision and shining example of his predecessors, served, without counting the cost, for the fulfillment of God's will for the AMAA.

And the fact that he believed the AMAA is called to fulfill the Great Commission is seen in the fruits of his labors as clearly as it is underscored in the following quotation from his report to the 66th Annual Meeting of the Association: "The Armenian Missionary Association of America may appear to be a charitable organization, educator, helper of the poor, promoter of culture and heritage, organizer of social service, literary work, promoter of fund raising functions and 'lobbyist' for social action programs—separately or all at the same time.

"None of those things is its specialty. Its unique goal is to make disciples for Christ. And that is in pursuance of Christ's mandate who taught—'Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations. . .'

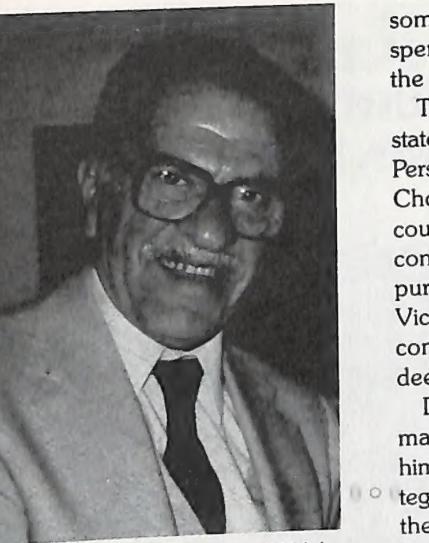
"All the rest of its work is incidental—its emphasis on education, relief, welfare programs in church and church schools, literary efforts and even its fund raising are incidental. The one and only valid, fundamental purpose is MEN MADE NEW in Christ.

"That is its specialty. The pursuit of that specialty, we pray, may be AMAA's unrelinquished thrust forever."

It is this testimony blended into close to 19 years of dedicated labors that moves us to salute Dr. Chopourian and praise God for his vital ministry in our midst.

We shall certainly miss Dr. Chopourian as a co-laborer in the mission of the AMAA. But we wish God's choicest blessings on him as his life and ministry continues to unfold.

—M.B. Janbazian



Nazar Y. Daghlian, President of AMAA.

tory of the Allies. Mr. Churchill was the right man at the right time. So was the choice of Dr. Chopourian. In eighteen years, he was able to put the AMAA on a solid foundation with the assets of the organization increasing to over ten times what it was in 1969. The AMAA is now in an enviable position, enjoys the trust and respect of all its constituents.

Someone once said that "one becomes his full self only by becoming an instrument of a cause greater than himself." By becoming the Executive Secretary (later on changed to Executive Director) of the AMAA, all of his latent and dormant talents and abilities were uncovered. The "cause" of the AMAA of service, love, charity and the preaching of the Gospel is a challenge greater than ourselves.

Dr. Chopourian was first and foremost a minister of the Gospel and in all his relationships with people, he never forgot this fact. He had a vision that the AMAA has a mission to accomplish a Christian mission, that the Gospel of the Kingdom should be preached in all the world (Matt. 24:14) "where there is no vision, the people perish", says the writer of the Proverbs. Where there is no vision, an organization like the AMAA becomes stagnant with dissolution its ultimate fate.

People sometimes ask me how old is 'Chop' and add that he never shows his age. He works so hard that he is too busy to get old. His zeal and energy is contagious, especially when you travel with him. His dash, vivacity, 'élan', and enthusiasm is probably due to the fact that he has been a good sportsman all his life. He has developed a spirit of good sports-

manship, fair play and competition. As someone said, "To spend oneself and he spent in the service of a worthy cause, is the greatest sport known to men."

There is a verse in the Qur'an that states, "God is with those who persevere." Perseverance is a second nature to Dr. Chopourian. Once he decides upon a course of action to be taken, based on his conviction that it is right, he 'doggedly' pursues it. He reminds me of Javert in Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables" who is convinced that Le Pere Madeline is indeed Jean Valjean. He never gives up.

Dr. Chopourian has always been a man of deep-rooted principles, setting for himself high standards of honesty and integrity. His background as a Minister of the Gospel has developed in him a firm foundation of Christian ethics and morals. My occasional proddings for acting more diplomatically, or being more pliable in his attitude has failed to change his unwavering stance. He is unique because he is one of those individuals who stand four square for what he believes in. He has refused to let personal interest or desire for popular favor emasculate his uncompromising devotion to truth and principles. This attitude has resulted in the antagonism of some, yet, he has stood firm.

In the assumption of his position as Executive Director, he has shown good leadership both within the AMAA and the Armenian Evangelical community at large. "A leader is anyone who has two characteristics," says the President of Hamilton College, "first he is going somewhere; second, he is able to persuade other people to go with him." Dr. Chopourian knew the direction the AMAA should take and after obtaining the blessings of the Board of Directors, he steered the organization in that direction.

He travelled far and wide to wherever there were Armenian Evangelists. From south America to Australia, from the Middle East to Greece, France and Germany, he visited all the churches, schools, clinics and social service centers. Whenever he returned from areas where he had seen ruin, destruction, human misery and poverty, he reported these scenes, often unable to hold back his tears. He had a genuine love and compassion for the needy, a love that our Lord spoke of so often in the Gospels.

Dr. Chopourian always spoke very proudly of his roots and family and was

never ashamed of his humble background. At a very early age, he was obliged to build a rustic cart and become a salesman to help the family. This humble beginning in business and the subjects he taught in High School were useful in his complete grasp of the financial problems of the AMAA. All these latent characteristics were helpful in understanding and dealing with all the aspects of the organization.

Again in Proverbs 31:10, we read, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above riches." Some people do, and Dr. Chopourian is one them. Mrs. Chopourian, Yeprouhi, has shared with her husband all the worries, trials, tribulations and successes. She has patiently, in her particular quiet way endured the loneliness during her husband's absence visiting the mission field. While travelling with him, all the inconveniences suffered have been borne with love and sincere Christian attitude. She has become indirectly part of the AMAA.

With these attributes as background and with sheer hard work, work with no time limitations, how can a person not be successful? During Dr. Chopourian's eighteen years, the AMAA—using a political cliche—has moved forward tremendously. The AMAA today is, or should be, the pride of every Armenian Evangelical in the United States and abroad.

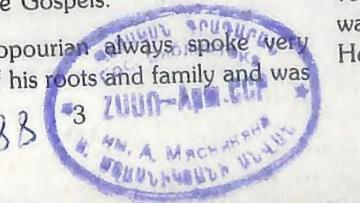
"No person is ever honored for what he receives; honor is the reward for what one gives."

Dr. Chopourian has given eighteen years of his life, completely, body and soul to the AMAA. His effort has been great, therefore, I think greatness is his reward.

OMEGA—The end

Lastly, while Dr. Chopourian and I were in Cyprus in September of 1985, to meet with the Armenian Evangelical leaders of the Middle East and discuss questions and problems of mutual interest, he was invited to speak at the morning assembly of the American Academy in Larnaca, his alma mater. When asked to accompany him, I did so reluctantly, having heard him speak on numerous occasions. However, I went with him and was glad to do so. After the service, one of the teachers, acting as a guide, showed us the campus. Dr. Chopourian was very excited, remembering the days he was a student and later a teacher there. He reminisced about the soccer cham-

(Cont. on page 6)



A GRATEFUL AMAA MISSIONARY FAMILY HONORS DR. CHOPOURIAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Submitted by Millard Bekmezian

On Sunday, May 31, 1987, the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA) tendered a Testimonial Banquet at the Holiday Inn, Fort Lee, NJ in honor of the Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D., who was retiring after 19 years as Executive Director of the AMAA.

A banquet of this magnitude is bound to have something go wrong. And it did. The service was slow, but the food was tasty when it arrived.

Be that as it may, all was forgotten. Especially when the guests realized the purpose of the banquet and listened to the outpouring of tribute for the man who was being honored. Speaker after speaker saw fit to extol the attributes of this unique and distinguished Christian whose career, according to the honoree, was God's will—"Man proposes; God disposes."

Alan Philibosian, Esq. of New Milford, NJ, Co-chairman of the Banquet Committee, welcomed the more than 350 guests, and the Rev. Vartan Hartunian, Vice Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, presented the invocation as only he can. Mr. Kirk Sermabeikian of Saddle River, NJ, Co-chairman of the Banquet Committee, introduced Albert Momjian, Esq. of Huntington Valley, PA as Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Momjian, in his own inimitable style and finesse, was able to move the affair along—which was no mean task—to close at a reasonable hour, 10:30 p.m.

Many speakers followed with greetings, presentations and words of praise. George Ajemian, D.D.S., President of the Armenian Missionary Association of Canada, described Dr. Chopourian as "the greatest living Armenian Evangelical of our times." The Rev. Dr. Scott Libby, the Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for World Ministries, likened Dr. Chopourian's retirement as "the end of an era." The Rev. Vahan Tootikian, Moderator of the AEUNA, referred to the honoree "as a good and



Left to right: The President of the AMAA, Mr. Nazar Y. Daghlian, wife, Lucy; Mr. Edward Mardigian congratulating Mrs. Yeprouhie Chopourian; Dr. Chopourian addressing the guests.

faithful steward; a scholar, author and intellectual; a man of character and integrity; and especially, a man of compassion, who can cry with you and laugh with you."

Mr. Chuck Haitayan, Majority Leader in the New Jersey General Assembly, read a letter from Governor Kean of New Jersey, congratulating Dr. Chopourian for his "dedication and tireless efforts and giving so much of himself to people who have benefitted greatly from this Association." Mr. Haitayan went on to read a Resolution of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, saluting Dr. Chopourian upon his retirement. The Hon. Set Momjian read a letter from President Ronald Reagan saluting Dr. Chopourian with a "well done" and attributing the growth of the AMAA to his efforts.

Mr. David Bakamjian of Stoney Brook, NY played the cello accompanied by his talented wife, Gwendolyn Mok, on the piano. Mr. Bakamjian dedicated two numbers to Dr. Chopourian: "Chahagir" (Bearer of the Torch) by Alan Hovhaness and a concerto by Rachmaninoff. Miss Sylvia Kutchukian of Loudonville, NY, vocalist for the evening, dedicated the stirring "Climb Every Mountain" of Rogers and Hammerstein, and a beautiful musical rendition of the 100th Psalm to the honored guest. The response from the audience left no doubt as to their satisfac-

tion and appreciation for these fine performances.

The program continued with further tributes from Mr. Edward Mardigian, the Honorary Chairman of the AGBU. He described Dr. Chopourian as "a hard worker, good Christian and gentleman" and he further sweetened his words by giving Dr. Chopourian a \$25,000 check in fulfillment of a \$50,000 pledge he had previously made to the AMAA.

The Master of Ceremonies announced that Messrs. Samuel and Robert Hekemian had made a princely donation of \$50,000 to the AMAA in honor of Dr. Chopourian. It was revealed that the Hekemians have designated that their gift be used for the creation of "The Giragos and Yeprouhi Chopourian Endowment Fund."

On behalf of the AMAA missionary family, Dr. John Keuhnelian of Tenafly, NJ presented Dr. Chopourian with a gift certificate for a word processor as well as a beautiful painting by artist Lucy Janjigian of Franklin Lakes, NJ. The painting, inspired from Acts 1:8, "you shall be my witnesses," was commissioned by the AMAA Board on the occasion of Dr. Chopourian's retirement. Mrs. Nazar Daghlian presented Mrs. Yeprouhi Chopourian with a beautiful necklace of pearls.

Mr. Pascal Nigoghosian, the Treasurer of the Armenian Evangelical Union of



Daughter Vicki addressing dinner guests with Dr. and Mrs. Chopourian listening to her remarks. With them are Attorney Albert Momjian, Master of Ceremonies; and the other Chopourian daughter.



Sisters of Dr. Chopourian, Mrs. Azadouhi Black and Lee Trott, both of Kent, England; and son-in-law Harry Stephy of Havertown, PA.



Hon. Set Momjian chatting with Charles Haytayan and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hekemian.

June 18, 1945. She has provided the needed understanding and support for her husband's ministry over many fruitful years.

The urbane and most competent President of the AMAA, Mr. Nazar Daghlian, spoke of his friend and colleague of many years, and presented AMAA's tribute to Dr. Chopourian. Mr. Daghlian said, "Dr. Chopourian is a man proud of his humble origins; he is first and foremost a minister of God; he is a man of principle which is based on the Gospel. He was brought to the AMAA as a man with a vision and mission; he knew where he was going, and many were eager to follow him because they could share in his vision."

We have heard of the concept that "behind every great man there stands a good woman." And so it is with Dr. Chopourian. Mrs. Yeprouhi Chopourian, a charming and gracious lady and a scholar and educator in her own right, has been by Dr. Chopourian's side since

Dr. Chopourian, as is his want, re-

sponded to all in a most humble manner. He asked the audience to "scratch the concept of greatest Armenian Evangelical of the present day." He continued, "I have a special relationship with each one present and I want to express my sincere thanks to each." Then he shared some of the principles to which he adhered as the Executive Director of the AMAA. His words presented a timely message because Nazar Y. Daghlian had just announced to the audience that the Rev. Moses B. Janbazian has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the AMAA, a decision which was heartily endorsed by all who were present. Sharing some of the lessons that he had learned during his career, Dr. Chopourian remarked, "Make sure you have all the

TRIBUTES OF LOVE AND ADMIRATION

facts to clear up any misinformation; hold to public and democratic processes; don't play politics; and say "no" to anything dangerous. Be decisive and accountable to inspire confidence." He also made the point, "that no one is indispensable" and concluded "I turn the reins over to Moses Janbazian. It will be in good hands."

Thus, the revered leader of the AMAA passed on the torch and retired.

With the singing of the Hayr Mer and the pronouncement of the Benediction by the Rev. Karl V. Avakian, the memorable evening came to a close.

Yes, it was a memorable occasion, because the spirit of love prevailed over

all for a man who will long be remembered for so many accomplishments, but especially as the moving force and spirit of the Armenian Missionary Association of America for 19 years.

Truly a legend in his own time!

THE RIGHT MAN

(Cont. from page 3)

pionships they had won, the tennis he had played, the medals he had won in field events, etc. . . . We saw a young

teacher approaching us, and when the guide introduced Dr. Chopourian to him, he opened his eyes wide and with a look of adoration, he exclaimed: "Are you really THE Mr. Chopourian? I should fall down on my knees and worship you," he said, "you are a myth here." There was a look of deep satisfaction in Chop's eyes and a smile of justifiable gratification.

In Cyprus, he was a 'myth', in the AMAA he will be remembered with respect and love for the magnificent work he has done furthering God's Kingdom on earth through his unique service to the cause of the AMAA. He was indeed the right man at the right time.

THE REVEREND GIRAGOS H. CHOPOURIAN, Ph.D. A Biographical Sketch

Giragos H. Chopourian was born in Adana, Cilicia (Turkey) in 1914 but emigrated with his family to Cyprus six years later. His early education was at the American Academy in Larnaca where in 1932 he received the diploma equivalent to high school and the freshman year of college. He joined the faculty of his alma mater on graduation where he remained until 1955 except for studies in Beirut in 1938 and from 1941 to 1945.

In June 1945 he received simultaneously a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from the American University of Beirut and a diploma in religious education with distinction from the Near East School of Theology. Following graduation, he married a fellow student Yeprouhi Der Boghossian; the couple returned to Cyprus as teachers at the American Academy. His three daughters Aznive Eileen, Sona Vera and Victoria were born during the next four years.

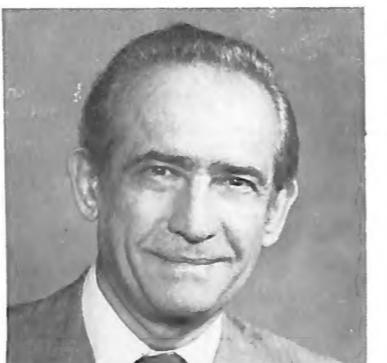
The years at the Academy were busy ones. Besides chairing the History Department, he was athletic and coached in several sports. His favorite sport was tennis; he once was a semi-finalist in the Cyprus Tennis Championship Tournament. Additionally, he was in charge of land and buildings, office accounts and the boarding department. Forever involved with youth, he was a scoutmaster, Sunday school teacher and a lay preacher in the local Evangelical church.

In 1955 "Chop" came to the United States to study at the Andover Newton Theological School for his Master's degree in religious education; simultaneously, he served as student-paster at the Bethel Congregational Church of Lawrence, MA, and the Armenian Congregational Church in Haverhill, MA. He received his ordination at the latter church, after which he attended the Harvard University Graduate School of education for work in educational and psychological counseling. The Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Philadelphia extended him an invitation to their pastorate in 1958. During the next eleven years, the Church underwent a resurgence with relocation to Havertown, PA.

Besides his pastoral duties he was active as Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union, Eastern States; Moderator of the Philadelphia Association of the United Church of Christ; Board member and Vice President of the AMAA. During this period he began his graduate studies at Temple University, receiving, in 1971, the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Church History.

From January, 1969 through July, 1987, he served as the Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. During his tenure, the organization has grown in scope and stature. The relocated offices in Paramus, New Jersey, have become a model of efficiency and productivity. To enumerate all the advances during this past decade is difficult. They include a substantial increase in the financial worth of the Association, successful projects such as the 60th Anniversary Campaign and the Ellis Island Remembered project, and a substantial increase in the local and international outreach of the AMAA. Scholarship activities and immigration assistance have become more prominent.

Dr. Chopourian is a prolific writer and the author of two books, "Our Armenian Christian Heritage" and "The Armenian Reformation: Causes and Effects." He is also active in many community activities, local, national, and international.



UNION OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES IN THE NEAR EAST, BEIRUT, LEBANON, The Rev. Hovhannes N. Karjian, President

The Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian put his heart into the work as the Executive Director of the AMAA. Whether it was because the nature of the work required it or it was his style of work, matters not. What matters is that it was he who set the pace of the heart beat of the AMAA and its personnel.

One could easily discern in the Reverend Chopourian's public statements and published articles his total commitment to the cause of the AMAA and, through it, to the Great Commission. His Christian heart could not settle with less.

The Reverend Chopourian's devotion to the education of the young and to the preparation of future leaders for our communities around the world turned to passion vis a vis the urgency of the need. His Armenian heart could not stand compromise on this vital issue.

In the face of emergencies, the Reverend Chopourian was all eyes and ears. "What are the dimensions of your need? Can you please supply us with figures?" he wrote. His humane heart could not tolerate suffering condonned and unmitigated.

In the Reverend Chopourian's person-to-person correspondence, one could meet the man with a tender heart, ready and eager to help and sacrifice, pouring out words of encouragement and good sense.

The Reverend Chopourian put his heart in the AMAA and what one saw there was the heart of Jesus Christ incarnate in real life.

The Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East thanks God for the Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian, with whom it has been privileged to pray together, plan and cooperate in the vineyard of the Lord for many years.

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL UNION OF FRANCE, MARSEILLE, FRANCE, The Rev. Jean-Daniel Shahagian, President

It gives me great joy to share these few words of testimony and appreciation, both personally and as the President of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France, for the important Armenian Evangelical Union of France ministry the Rev. G. H. Chopourian rendered to the AMAA for many years.

I have discovered in the Rev. Dr. Chopourian a warm-hearted and competent man devoted to the cause of the AMAA and the Armenian Evangelical communities around the world. I have always appreciated the extensive work of the AMAA and the personal role Rev. Chopourian played in that work.

In the absence of an organization that would connect the Armenian Evangelicals around the world, the AMAA has succeeded in becoming a vital uniting force in the Armenian Evangelical world family. And how important has been the role of Dr. Chopourian in this field. Through his visits, correspondence and fund-raising efforts, Dr. Chopourian made it possible for the AMAA to respond to the numerous and

various needs of the Armenian Evangelical communities dispersed throughout the world.

As the President of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France, I rejoice in the fact that the ties between the AMAA and our Churches of France have been strengthened in these past few years. I would like to acknowledge the role played by Dr. Chopourian in this noteworthy accomplishment. Henceforth, every year, our churches will have an "AMAA Sunday" in the month of March, and we shall continue to seek new possibilities to strengthen our partnership and fellowship in the work of the AMAA.

May the Lord grant Dr. Chopourian many years filled with His grace and blessings, and may He raise up the man needed to succeed him. May He always be glorified through our work.

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA, ROYAL OAK, MI, The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Moderator

I am delighted to have this opportunity to participate in this illustrious occasion of the recognition of your leadership as you come to retirement. I have always found you to be a great man among men, a person of strong Christian faith, and a great leader. I have appreciated, over the years, your abilities with people. You are able to relate to persons of various ages and stages of life with equal ease and grace, and that is an attribute which has won you many loyal friends and co-workers. As a man who has shown a willingness to make difficult decisions, to stand courageously behind those decisions, and yet not become controversial, your example is one that younger men will emulate as the next generation of great Armenian Christian leaders comes to maturity.

Throughout the years you have shown that you have a great love for the work of God within and without the Armenian community, here and abroad. You have shared your missionary vision with others, spurring them on to greater works. Your strong faith in the endeavors of Armenian Evangelicalism has been a bulwark, giving support and endurance to the work which has been accomplished. At the same time, your pragmatic approach has helped our organization keep their "feet on the ground," so to speak, so that we now enjoy a strong financial and social position in the community at large. A great deal of the contemporary success of the AMAA is due to your stamina and untiring efforts on behalf of the values we all hold dear. Your patriotism is genuine—you have been and continue to be a great Armenian ambassador for Christ. Well done, good and faithful servant of the Lord! May God reward you abundantly for all you have done in His name.

In all these endeavors, Yeprouhi, your lovely wife, has been at your right hand in support and encouragement. May you both enjoy retirement years in good health and happiness, along with your daughters and their families. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, we invoke God's special blessings upon you, Mrs. Chopourian and your family.

ARMENIAN CATHOLICOSATE OF CILICIA, AN-TILIAS, LEBANON, Karekin II, Catholicos of Cilicia

Over the past twenty years I have known Guiragos not only as a friend but also as a dedicated servant of God. I am well aware of the invaluable services that he has rendered the AMAA in whose growth, expansion and manifold activities of religious, educational, cultural and relief nature and scope he has had a determining and outstanding role.

It has been a real joy for me to have witnessed to his skill of administration and most efficient way of communication. His love for the Church and the Armenian people has brought to life and prominence his skills of interpretation of the needs and efficient ways of discovering means and ways to meet them.

I am sure his rich experience and infinite love for the Church, the Armenian Evangelical communities and the Armenian people at large will not cease to be a source of great benefit for the future.

THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C., Ronald Reagan, The President of the United States

For many years you have served the Armenian Missionary Association of America as its Executive Director. In this capacity, you have travelled throughout our great country and through many nations of the world community in your service to the Armenian people. In every sense of the word, you have been a true missionary. I join with your many friends in saluting you for your distinguished efforts and in saying, "well done."

The AMAA has grown in stature and strength during your tenure as Executive Director. In this country and abroad the organization has the respect and devotion of all Armenians. Much of this is attributable to your diligent and untiring service.

Congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of your retirement.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, Thomas H. Kean, Governor

As Governor, I am delighted to offer my congratulations and warmest wishes to you as you are honored by the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Your tenure as Executive Director of the Association has been marked by success and many people have benefitted from your tireless efforts. I commend you for your dedication; New Jersey is fortunate to have individuals like you who give so much of themselves.

Again, congratulations, and best wishes for the future.

THE ARMENIAN PRELACY, NEW YORK, NY, Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, Prelate

On behalf of the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, I wish to express sincere thanks and appreciation of the tremendous job that Dr. Chopourian was able to fulfill in the position he held and during which time he was able, in the words of St. Paul "To magnify his office", (Romans 11:13).

Dr. Chopourian has been an inspiration to all of us, in be-

ing a devout Christian, a man of integrity, a man with sense of fairness and total commitment to the Calling. So many of us came to know the stewardship of the AMAA through him.

ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION, SADDLE BROOK, NJ, A. Manoogian, President

Dr. Chopourian has been the most articulate proponent of the good work that the Armenian Missionary Association of America carries throughout the world. Thanks to him I have come to better understand, as many others have done, the laudable mission of the AMAA in the Armenian community life. A positive image of the AMAA was projected in the Armenian community through Dr. Chopourian and for many Armenians he has come to symbolize AMAA itself.

Dr. Chopourian has earned our respect through his dedication and achievements.

UNITED CHURCH BOARD FOR WORLD MINISTRIES, NEW YORK, NY, Dr. Scott Libbey, Executive Vice-President

On behalf of the United Church Board for World Ministries—and personally—I want to take this moment to express a word of deep and reverent appreciation to you for the very significant ministry which you have shared through the Armenian Missionary Association for the whole church of Jesus Christ.

The records testify to the evidence of your faithfulness in service, and the relationships which you carefully have developed and nurtured through the years continue a quality of integrity and care that will be a continuing testimony to you and an ongoing gift to the church.

Your tenure as the Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America is a rich heritage which has invested these two bodies with a character of covenant connection that will serve us well in the years ahead.

STEPHEN PHILIBOSIAN FOUNDATION, MALIBU, CALIFORNIA, Mrs. Joseph Stein, Jr., Chairman

We join with countless friends in celebrating your untiring efforts on behalf of our Armenian brethren.

We also echo the accolades of the entire Armenian community in expressing heartfelt gratitude for your extraordinary service to our people.

How appropriate, therefore, to honor you and Yeprouhi as the consummate, loving and dedicated embodiment of the Armenian Missionary Association.

God bless you abundantly in the years to come.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN, CENTER FOR ARMENIAN RESEARCH, DEARBORN, MI, Dr. Dennis R. Papazian, Director

The Rev. Dr. G. H. Chopourian is truly one of the pillars of the Armenian church community in the United States and, indeed, throughout the world.

His service to the AMAA has been exemplary; yet, his ministry has extended beyond the AMAA to reach Armenians in whatever church they might belong and to whatever confession they might adhere.

His life has been a witness to the love of Christ, the power of God, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Many of our great leaders have been known as builders, as enlighteners, or as gracefilled. All have set examples to be emulated. Dr. Chopourian may be characterized as the "upright" or the "righteous."

UNION OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES IN THE NEAR EAST, BEIRUT, LEBANON, Hayr Mouradian, Chairman, Central Committee

During the past two decades or so the AMAA has more and more taken the role of THE leading organization in the Armenian Evangelical Community the world over providing assistance, vision and guidance to our churches, schools and institutions. It has assisted thousands of promising Armenian students in their pursuit of an education. With its impeccable administrative setup and Christian ethics it has inspired confidence in all those who have contributed toward the short and long term projects of the Association.

All of these and a lot more have become possible because of your dedicated, inspiring and all-rounded leadership. God has blessed the AMAA beyond all expectations by putting you at the helm of the Association for the past eighteen years. And I can confidently say that you have not failed Him. You have not failed any of us either.

ARMENIAN BIBLE COLLEGE, PASADENA, CA, Yeghia Babigian, President

"The Church of Christ has always advanced when God has called to the helm of His Great Commission the right person at the right time. Surely, Dr. Chopourian was the chosen captain of the AMAA.

As President of the American-Armenian International College (1976-82) and the Armenian Bible College (1982-), our loci have always been interrelated in the Lord's harvest field. I have admired at his dedication, industriousness, tolerance and magnanimous heart.

True, money is the root of all evil; but only geniuses like him, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, can detoxify, multiply and transform it into nutrients for the blossoming and fruitioning of the Lord's work."

THE TELFEYAN EVANGELICAL FUND, INC., GREAT NECK, NEW YORK, Elida Nerso Telfeyan, Executive Vice-President

The manner in which you have fulfilled the most difficult, and at times, unrewarding position as Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association is without parallel.

With clarity of vision you have directed our Missionary Association to great heights. Under your capable hands and with your ability to identify the directions to be taken as well as the steps necessary to attain the goals, you have made the hopes and dreams of the Charter members of the AMAA come to full fruition.

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, TEHRAN, IRAN, The Rev. Tateos Michaelian, Pastor

On behalf of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Iran we

would like to express our gratitude to God for the wonderful service rendered to the Armenian Evangelical cause by our beloved brother in Christ, the Rev. Dr. G. H. Chopourian, the Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Dr. Chopourian's wise leadership for almost twenty years has been a great achievement for the AMAA. He has been very capable and highly qualified and at the same time energetic and active in performing his God given responsibilities.

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA, The Rev. Vartan Hartunian, Vice Moderator

A TRIBUTE TO GIRAGOS H. CHOPOURIAN:

He put his hands to the plow
and looked not back
until he had upturned the hardened soil,
planted the seeds,
and nourished them with his time, talents,
toil and thought;

obsessed only with his people's needs
and zealous for the Gospel
to feed and clothe their bodies, minds and souls.
And God looked down with grace,
softening the hardness with rains of mercy,
warming the coldness with rays of love,
until a harvest of abundance was awake
to the thanksgiving of multitudes.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS, INC., NEW YORK, NEW YORK, Edward M. K. Murray, President

Your retirement marks a timely end to the many challenges, pressures and frustrations you have faced in His service. I don't have to remind you of the endless travel, the heavy meals, the missed vacations, the demands on your ingenuity and patience. These you have borne with singular grace and good humor. But, I am delighted that you can now leave these behind you while you are still able to enjoy well-earned relaxation with your beloved Yeprouhie.

Others are better qualified to comment on the many important contributions you have made to the AMAA and Armenian communities worldwide. I do know that along with the plaudits of your fellow men, a voice from above will surely say to you: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

PRIMERA IGLESIA EVANGELICA ARMENIA DEL URUGUAY, MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, The Rev. Obad Boyadjian, D.D.S., Pastor

Our 'Primera Iglesia Evangelica Armenia del Uruguay' owes much to Dr. Chopourian for the attention he has shown, the dedication he has given and the services he has rendered.

May his retirement as Executive Director of the AMAA, when still in the fullness of his working capacity, be another opportunity to share his rich experience and knowledge for the advancement of the most noble causes of The Kingdom.

"As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news." (Rom. 10:15)

ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF ARGENTINA, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, Mr. Haig Terzian, President and Mr. Isaac Shadarevian, Secretary

We came to know Dr. G. H. Chopourian during his frequent visits to Buenos Aires. He has impressed us as one of God's most faithful servants.

It was through his efforts that the Armenian Missionary Association of Argentina (AMAA) was founded, and upon his recommendation a building was purchased as the headquarters of the Association.

His visits with our community and his encouragement of the work of our young Association will be long remembered.

We ask our Lord's blessings on Dr. Chopourian and his work which will continue to bring the Light of the Gospel to many, many people.

AMERICAN ARMENIAN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE, LA VERNE, CALIFORNIA, Garbis Der Yeghiayan, President

Your service on this college's board of trustees has helped to shape the mission of the institution in the 703 year Armenian tradition of excellence in higher education.

Your dedicated church and community leadership and your outstanding service as an administrator, editor and writer, and especially as a dedicated friend of the Armenian youth and students, exemplify the spirit which has insured our national survival for over four millenia.

We greatly appreciate your dedication to fulfilling the vision of a unified Armenian community and your active and wise participation in the preservation of our precious culture—our national legacy to future generations of Armenian children and youth.

OTHER TESTIMONIAL MESSAGES

AMAA—Office Staff, Paramus, NJ

AMAA—Peninsula Chapter, San Jose, CA, Mrs. Arpi Halebian, Chairperson.

Ararat Armenian Congregational Church, Salem, NH.

Armenian Congregational Church, Chicago, IL, The Rev. Barkev N. Darakjian, Pastor.

Armenian Evangelical Central High School, Beirut, Lebanon, Mr. Artoun Hamalian, Principal.

Armenian Evangelical Church, New York, NY, The Rev. Daniel Albarian, Pastor.

Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, Los Angeles, CA, The Rev. H. Abraham Chaparian, Pastor.

Armenian Evangelical Church of Kokkinia, Greece, Mr. Asadour Topalian, Moderator.

Armenian Evangelical Church of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil, The Rev. Alberto Darahdgian, Pastor; Mr. Arsenio Bilezikdjian, Secretary.

Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, The Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian, Pastor.

Armenian Evangelical College, Beirut, Lebanon,

Mr. Zaven M. Messerlian, Principal.

Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, Aleppo, Syria, The Rev. Barkev A. Apartian, President.

Armenian Evangelical S. Philibosian School, Bourj Hamoud, Lebanon, Mrs. Lucy Krikorian, Acting Principal.

Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, Fresno, CA, The Rev. Harry Missirlian, Minister to the Union.

Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA, The Rev. Dr. Soghomon Nuyujukian, Pastor.

Armenian Memorial Church, Belmont, MA, The Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Pastor.

Armenian Missionary Association of Canada, Beaconsfield, Canada, Dr. George Ajemian, President.

Armenian Missionary Association of Iran, Tehran, Iran, Apraham Hovasapian, President.

Assyrian Evangelical Church, Beirut, Lebanon, The Rev. George Iwaz, Pastor.

Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, San Francisco, CA, The Rev. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor.

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, New York, NY, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate.

Eglise Evangelique Armenienne, Lyon, France, The Rev. Calvin Barsumian, Pastor.

Eglise Evangelique Armenienne, Issy-les-Moulineaux, France, The Rev. Rene Leonian, Pastor.

Eglise Evangelique Armenienne de Lyon, Lyon, France, The Rev. Jean Agopian, Pastor.

First Armenian Evangelical Church, Montreal, Canada, Mr. Anton Torunian, Moderator; Mr. Sarkis Hanenian, Lay Minister.

First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA, The Rev. Bernard Guekguezian, Senior Pastor.

Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corp., New York, NY, Leila Karagheusian, President; Dr. Walter Bandazian, Executive Director.

Jinishian Memorial Program, New York, NY, Mr. William K. Du Val, Director.

Knights of Vartan, Inc., Fresno, CA, Arra S. Avakian, Grand Commander.

Law Offices of Parsekian & Solomon, Hackensack, NJ, Ned J. Parsekian, Lawyer.

Middletown Psychiatric Center, Middletown, NY, Dr. George Bezirganian, Deputy Director.

Peter & Elizabeth Torosian Junior High School, Beirut, Lebanon, Mr. Hovsep Injejkian, Principal.

'Panpere', Villeurbanne, France, Dr. Ari Topouz-khanian, Editor.

Pickwick Publications, Allison Park, PA, Mr. Dikran Y. Hadidian, General Editor.

Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, Fresno, CA, The Rev. Roger Minassian, Pastor.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, Dr. Carnegie Calian, President.



Artist Lucy Janjigian's painting, "You shall be my witnesses . . ." (Acts 1:18), commissioned by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) on the occasion of the retirement of The Rev. G.H. Chopourian, Ph.D., Executive Director of the AMAA, 1969-1987.

Mr. Edward and Mrs. Lucy Janjigian, Franklin Lakes, NJ.

The Rev. Apraham K. Jizmejian, Toronto, Canada.

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Karian, Watertown, MA.

Dr. Edward M. Kavjian, Havertown, PA.

The Rev. Garabed Tilkian, Encino, CA.

Mrs. Arousiag Tovmassian, Whittier, CA.

Mr. W. W. Weir, Pittsburgh, PA.

The Rev. Melvin Wittler, Istanbul, Turkey.

Mr. Puzant Yeghiyan, Watertown, MA.

Mr. Charles and Mrs. Kay Zoolalian, Whittier, CA.

The Rev. Ardashes Kerbabian, Toronto, Canada.

Dr. John and Mrs. Gladys Keuhnelian, Tenafly, NJ.

The Rev. Mihran M. Koeroghlian, Redlands, CA.

The Rev. S. F. Konsulian, Pasadena, CA.

Dr. and Mrs. Puzant Krikorian, Fresno, CA.

Miss Esther Kupalian, West Bloomfield, MI.

Mr. Levon M. Levonian, Troy, NY.

Mr. Gasper and Mrs. Aznive Magarian, Fresno, CA.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mardigian, Birmingham, MI.

Mr. Steven Y. Mardigian, New Hyde Park, NY.

Mr. Archie and Mrs. Stella Mathson, Fresno, CA.

Mr. Edward and Mrs. Gloria Medzian, Hillsborough, CA.

Dr. Pepronia Merjanian, Pasadena, CA.

Albert Momjian, Esq., Philadelphia, PA.

The Rev. Dr. Youhanna Mugar, Claremont, CA.

Mrs. Marie V. Nahigian, Belmont, MA.

Mr. Pascal Nigoghossian, Villeurbanne, France.

The Rev. Solo A. Nigosian, Toronto, Canada.

The Rev. Barkev Orchanian, Watertown, MA.

Mr. Berg Paraghalian, Bethesda, MD.

Mr. and Mrs. George Philiposian, Englewood, NJ.

The Rev. Assadour A. Sadakian, Burlingame, CA.

Dr. Jirair N. Sarian, Los Angeles, CA.

The Rev. Khatchik Sarian, Darby, PA.

Mrs. Michele B. Simourian, Dover, MA.

The Rev. Jirair M. Sogomian, Simi Valley, CA.

The Rev. S. K. Sulahian, Bronxville, NY.

SAMUEL AND ROBERT HEKEMIAN BROTHERS DONATE \$50,000 IN HONOR OF DR. CHOPOURIAN

On the occasion of the retirement of the Rev. Dr. G. H. Chopourian, Samuel and Robert Hekemian Brothers donated \$50,000 to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA). The generous donation, announced on May 31, 1987 at the testimonial Banquet honoring the retiring Executive Director of the AMAA, was made as a loving tribute of the Hekemian Brothers and their families to Dr. and Mrs. Chopourian. The donors have expressed their desire that their gift be used to establish an endowment fund to be known as "The Rev. Dr. Giragos and Mrs. Yeprouhie Chopourian Endowment Fund." The fund will be managed by the Investment Committee of the Association and its annual income will be used for AMAA supported projects designated by the Chopourians.

In presenting the princely gift to the AMAA, Samuel, the eldest of the brothers, stated, "We are establishing this fund in honor of Dr. Chopourian as a token of our admiration for him and in acknowledgement of his 19 years of loyal and fruitful service to the cause of our beloved Association." Robert added, "We hope that other admirers and friends of Dr. Chopourian will be inspired and contribute to the fund according to their means."

Both Samuel and Robert Hekemian have been long-time co-laborers with Dr. Chopourian in the work of the AMAA. Samuel has served as President of the AMAA from 1978 through 1980, and has been on the Board of Directors for several three-year terms. He has also served the Association as Chairman and member of various important committees. Robert has held the position of



AMAA Benefactors, Samuel and Robert Hekemian Brothers.

Treasurer of the AMAA from 1967 to 1970 and has served on the Board and as member of various committees. Both Samuel and Robert are current members of the Board of Directors of the AMAA.

In addition to their contribution of time, talents and expertise, the Hekemian brothers have also contributed significant donations to the worldwide outreach of the AMAA. The Hekemian Family Fund of the Association, established by their late parents, Samuel and Elizabeth Hekemian, was augmented by Samuel and Robert over the years and turned into one of the largest endowments of the AMAA. The income of the fund, well over \$100,000 annually, is used for a variety of AMAA programs such as relief, evangelism, scholarships for college and university students, children's education, Armenian schools, and church and mission work in the U.S. and overseas.

The President, the Board of Directors and the Executive Director of the AMAA join in extending heartfelt appreciation to Benefactors Samuel and Robert Hekemian for honoring the outgoing Executive Director of the Association with such a noble and meaningful gesture.

We hope that many other AMAA members will emulate the example of the Hekemians and will make their own contribution to the Rev. Dr. Giragos and Mrs. Yeprouhie Chopourian Endowment Fund. Such a contribution will represent a beautiful expression of tribute and will strengthen the mission of the AMAA in which so much of Dr. Chopourian's time, energies and talents have gone over the years.

Loving tribute gifts in honor of Dr. Chopourian may be mailed to the AMAA, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652.

THE REV. MOSES B. JANBAZIAN NAMED AMAA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Rev. Moses B. Janbazian of Paramus, N.J., has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the AMAA. The Rev. Janbazian will succeed Rev. Dr. G. H. Chopourian who having called

himself to retirement, terminated his close to 19 years of unparalleled service to the AMAA as of July 31, 1987. Rev. Janbazian, whose appointment was voted by the Board of Directors of the AMAA, was

recommended for the position of Executive Director by a seven-member search committee chaired by Mr. Nazar Y. Daghlian. He took up his new position on August 1, 1987.

As the Chief Executive of the Board of the AMAA, the Rev. Janbazian will be responsible for overseeing and guiding the life and work of the AMAA.

The Rev. Janbazian is not a newcomer into the administrative corps of the AMAA. In 1980, he joined the staff of the AMAA as the first Field Director of the growing Association and in that capacity held a variety of administrative and field work responsibilities which included: Assistance to the Executive Director, management of the office staff, development of promotional literature, co-editorship of the AMAA NEWS, visitation to the churches and support groups and other duties related to the multi-dimensional work of the Association.

A native of Lebanon, Rev. Janbazian received his early education in the Armenian Evangelical High School of Ainjar, his hometown. In 1968 he received a B.A. degree in Modern European History

from Haigazian College and in 1971 a Master's degree in Christian Education from the Near East School of Theology, both in Beirut, Lebanon. After acting as the Director of the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center of Trad, Lebanon from 1971-1972, he served as the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he had a fruitful ministry of regular church duties, augmented by a weekly citywide radio program, a prison ministry, an effective youth program and strong involvement in community activities.

Rev. Janbazian was ordained to the Christian Ministry by the joint participation of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and the United Church of Christ. He is married to the former Louisa Youmoushakian of Beirut, Lebanon. The Janbazians currently reside in Paramus, NJ, with their two children, Vahak Boghos, eight, and Ani Agnes, six.



The Rev. M.B. Janbazian, the newly appointed Executive Director of AMAA.

APC RECOGNIZES DR. & MRS. CHOPOURIAN



Left to right: Mrs. Rosy Maranjian, The Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis Haneian, The Rev. Dr. G.H. Chopourian displaying the gift presented to him by APC, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Loussararian and Rev. and Mrs. Karl Avakian.

On Sunday, May 31, 1987, the Armenian Presbyterian Church (APC) of Paramus, New Jersey, honored The Rev. Dr. G. H. Chopourian on the occasion of his retirement from the position of Executive Director of the AMAA. Dr. and Mrs. Chopourian were recognized during the worship service and were presented with a beautifully framed picture of Mount Ararat.

AMAA COMMUNITY OF CALIFORNIA WILL MARK DR. CHOPOURIAN'S RETIREMENT WITH TESTIMONIAL BANQUET

In order to provide an opportunity to our churches and members in California to express their tribute to The Rev. Dr. G.H. Chopourian on the occasion of his retirement, the West Coast members of the Board of Directors of the AMAA have planned a Testimonial Banquet in his honor to be held on Saturday, December 5, 1987, at 6:00 p.m. at the Paul Avazian Memorial Hall of the United Armenian Congregational Church of North Hollywood, 3480 Cahuenga Blvd., California.

For reservations or further information, call Dr. Pepronia Merjanian at (818) 782-0259.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE'S MINISTRY TO THE UNDERPRIVILEGED IN BEIRUT

Because of security reasons, international humanitarian agencies reduced the number of their personnel and service programs in wartorn Lebanon in the past few years. However, thanks to local community agencies, relief efforts to meet the urgent and growing needs of the suffering people in Lebanon continues feebly but persistently.

Among the noteworthy agencies currently involved in relief work in the Armenian community in Beirut is the Social Action Committee (SAC) which operates a Social Service Center at the heart of the Armenian town of Bourj Hamoud. The SAC is the social service agency of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Beirut and uses effective and creative programs to relate to the social, physical and spiritual needs of the Armenians in the area. The SAC is appointed by and accountable to the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, a long-standing mission partner of the AMAA. The AMAA continues to finance the vital ministry of the SAC, which is rendered to all Armenians without any discrimination as to their political or denominational background.

The following report recently received from the Chairman of the SAC, the Rev. Robert Sarkissian, presents a brief overview of this important ministry to the Armenian Community of Lebanon.

The economic crisis in Lebanon is aggravating day by day and overshadowing all other problems created by the ongoing civil war.

The increasing inflation has impoverished the middle class. Thousands of people are pushed to a position where they need help from social agencies for their survival.

Our Social Action Committee's office in the Trad neighborhood of Bourj Hamoud is always crowded just like the offices of other social agencies. Our activities are carried on regularly under the supervision of our social worker, Mrs. Lucie Khatchadourian, and by the help



AMAA's "Food-Coupon" distributed by the Social Action Committee to assist impoverished families in Lebanon to meet basic necessities of life.

of the volunteer ladies of the Committee.

Family Allowance—Our Family Allowance program is continued faithfully. About 50 impoverished elderly are provided with regular monthly allowances. Because of the ever soaring inflation, the amount of the stipend has to be raised several times during the course of the year.

Medical Cases—Our social worker continues to provide medical guidance and financial help to individuals that have difficulty in coping with the increasing cost of medical care. This help is rendered in cooperation with other service agencies, especially the Jinishian Memorial Program. The Committee is in need of more funds to respond to the crying needs of the increasing medical hardship cases. Medicine is not always available, and whenever it is found, it is prohibitively expensive.

Emergency Relief—Two years ago, we were encouraged by the AMAA to

start a "Food Coupon Program." Food coupons of LL 500 and eventually LL 1000 were distributed to about 120 families. The value of the food coupons was raised to LL 1500 which may not seem high, but given the fact that the minimum salary in 1986 was LL 2200, the help given through this program means a considerable relief aid to the recipients. The food coupons are exchanged for food from the Cooperative of Bourj Hamoud. The coupons do not allow the recipients to buy alcoholic beverages, cigarettes or luxury items. This is the most appreciated service of the Committee, through which impoverished families are assisted in their struggle to meet the basic necessities of life.

"A Cup of Milk"—Encouraged by the Karagheusian Foundation which provides us with powdered milk, our Social Service Center staff prepare and serve every day a cup of milk for each kindergarten child at the Trad School. This is an ex-

MR. AUGUSTINE AND MRS. VERGINE BADEER VISIT LEBANON

Editor's Note: Mr. Augustine and Mrs. Vergine Badeer recently returned from a six-week trip to the Middle East where they visited their relatives and friends as well as our churches, schools and youth groups in Syria and Lebanon. The following article, kindly submitted by Mr. Badeer, presents a brief account of their visit. Mr. and Mrs. Badeer have always felt a deep loving concern for the Armenian Evangelical community of Syria and Lebanon where they served in many important capacities for more than 35 years before they settled in Fresno, California in 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. Badeer are devoted Christians whose commitment to missions led them several years ago to establish a substantial endowment fund with the AMAA. The annual income of

their fund is used for a variety of missionary projects in the United States and abroad.

Our purpose in visiting Syria and Lebanon was to see our relatives, friends and Christian workers in the area; learn first hand about our churches, schools and Christian Endeavor youth groups; and remind our brethren that we not only pray for them, but care for them as well.

Our Schools—In Lebanon we have three Elementary Schools, one Junior High School, four High Schools and the Haigazian College. Last year, the total of the student population of these schools was 2,890. All the schools operated regularly and completed their teaching



Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Badeer.

regular, systematic financial support. Could you please prayerfully consider sponsoring relief aid to one or more families? Your prayers, love and support will mean so much for a troubled Armenian family. Your "Relief Sponsorship" contribution of \$15 will pay for a month's "food coupon" for one family. Use the coupon below to express your love for your needy brothers and sisters in Lebanon.

Girls' Home Economics Classes

—This program offers useful activities to 12-17 year old girls who, for some reason or another, are deprived of a formal education. This highly appreciated program is conducted by volunteer ladies and teachers. In 1986, 24 girls followed courses of first aid, hygiene, home economics, cooking, sewing, mathematics, and Armenian, Arabic and English languages. After attending these courses regularly for three years, the participating students receive a certificate.

Study Room—Every day, after school hours, more than 20 children who do not have adequate room for their studies at home are offered study room facilities at the Social Service Center. The participating students prepare their lessons under the supervision of tutors as well as receive special assistance from volunteer teachers.

Playground—On Saturdays, about

Yes, I would like to sponsor
FOOD COUPONS for ()
family(ies) for a period of ()
month(s) on the basis of at least
\$15 a month.

Enclosed is my check for \$_____
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Please make your tax deductible checks
payable to the Armenian Missionary
Association of America, Inc., 140 Forest
Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652.



Mr. and Mrs. Badeer flanked by the Rev. and Mrs. Hovhannes Karjian and members of the First Armenian Evang'l. Church of Beirut.

Our Churches — We have four churches in Beirut and one in Ainjar, a purely Armenian town in the Bekaa Valley. The average worship service attendance is around one hundred. There has been a sharp decline in the membership of the churches due to migration. Despite the 13 year-old civil strife in Beirut, our pastors are faithfully and heroically carrying on their ministry. They are laboring in extremely difficult circumstances. God has been faithful in providing them with spiritual power, perseverance and commitment. But they need prayers and moral as well as financial support.

We crossed the dangerous "green line" twice to attend the worship services of the First Armenian Evangelical Church in West Beirut. Some of our friends were surprised and pleased to see us. For us, it was a real joy to show them our love and assure them that they are not forgotten.

The Youth—The Christian Endeavor
Youth of our churches are the most promising elements in our community. They are active and creative. As a result of the work of the Christian Endeavor Societies, there appears to be among the youth new signs of commitment to the mission of our churches. One of the Christian Endeavor young men, Nerses Balabanian, graduated from the Near East School of Theology and came to Houston, Texas for post-graduate studies. He will return to Lebanon with his wife, Sevan, and will serve as the Youth Director of the Armenian Evangelical Christian Endeavor Societies of Lebanon. Both, Nerses and Sevan are devoted Christians and



Commencement exercises—Armenian Evangelical Peter and Elizabeth Torosian School of Nor Amanos (Beirut), Lebanon.



Commencement Exercises—Armenian Evangelical Central High School.

talented leaders. Their service will certainly be a blessing to the Youth.

The economy of the country is in a very sad condition. Our school teachers and particularly Christian workers urgently need financial help. The help of the AMAA is greatly appreciated, but more relief aid is needed to help alleviate the hardships of our people.

We also visited Aleppo and Kessab in Syria. In Syria we have a young and energetic Youth Director in the person of Megerdich Melkonian. He is married to Houri Aposhian and they have two lovely daughters. His ministry is made possible by a special grant from the AMAA. I had the opportunity to speak with a group of around 150 young people in Aleppo. I was inspired to base my message on Joel 2:28—"Your old men shall dream dreams

and your young men shall see visions."

We praise God for granting us the opportunity to see our ministers and lay leaders in Beirut and Aleppo. The concern which I shared with all of them is the state of our Armenian Evangelical church life around the world. Over the years, we have become highly organized and comparatively wealthy. But we are confined in our churches. We are called evangelicals, yet we do very little in evangelism and witnessing. We have become disciples, but not disciple-makers.

The need for witnessing and despiclemaking should be our priority in the years to come so that when we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church, we can claim that we are, indeed, the worthy heirs of the “faith of our fathers”.

Հայերէն բաժին

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Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան
Վարիչ Տնօրէնիմ Վեր Դոկտ. Կիրակոս Յ. Զօփորեանի
հանգստեան կոչուելուն առիրով ստացուած հարիւրար
զահատագիր-նամակներուն մէկ մասը գրուած էր մեր
Մայրենի լեզուով: Քանի անկարելի էր զահատանքի այդ
բոլոր խօսքերը ամբողջութեամբ արտատպել, յարմար
նկատեցինք մեր ընթերցողներուն հետ բաժնեկցի միայն կարգ
մը անձնաւորութիւններու վկայութիւններէն քաղուած
հետեւեալ հատուածները:-

Վեր. Զօփուրեանի սիստեմական կազմակերպեալ
աշխատանքովը եւ իր հետը տնտեսագէտ եւ ընկերային
դիրքի տէր Պատուարժան ժողովականներու միախմբու-
մովը՝ Ընկերակացութեան հանդէս ստեղծուեցաւ վստա-
հութեան միջնորդու մը, եւ այդ վարկով աճեցաւ անոր
հարստութիւնը: Այդ դրամագլուխութեանը՝ որ՝
կտակներու հարստութիւնը: Այսօր պատկան է երկու
Զօփուրեանի պաշտօնի կոչուած տարիին՝ հազիւ երկու
միլիոն տողարի գումարը մը կը ներկայացնէր, իր օրով
տասնապատիկ եւ աւելի բազմապատկուեցաւ: Այսօր այդ
առաստութիւնը հասածէ 22,5009,000 տողար պատկառելի
գումարի, որու տարեկան եկամուտէն մօտաւորապէս մէկ
միլիոն տողար նպաստ կը բաշխուի Ազգին զանազան կա-
րիքներուն: Եւ կարեւո՞րը, ընդհանուր այդ նպաստին 42
առ հարիւր մեծագոյն մասը կը տրամադրուի կրթական
գործի՝ ուսումնական ամէն մակարդակի վրայ, նախա-
կըրթութենէ մինչեւ գոյլէն եւ հոգեւորական մշակներու
պատրաստութիւնը:

Նաեւ Ընկերակցութեան Լրատու Պաշտօնաթերթ ԱՄԱԱ
NEWSին մէջ ամիսէ ամիս Զօփուրեանի խմբագրական
դատումները քրիստոնէական մտահայեացքով իմաստուն
պատգամնել եղան ազգային ու մարդկային հարցերու
յստակ տեսութիւններով՝ ազգապահանումի
անմիջական հարցէն մինչեւ Հայ Մեծ Յեղասպանդի
միջազգային Դատու: Եւ անոր Համարձակօրէն յայտնած
պիտառ համոզումներէն մէկը եղաւ՝ Հայ Աւետ-
Եկեղեցի հոգեւոր առանձնայատկութիւնները պահելով
հանդերձ՝ վերամիացումը Հայոց: Մայր Եկեղեցիին հետ
իր ասոր մէկ բարեկարգեալ ճիւղը:

Ահա ինչպիսի՞ իմաստուն խորհուրդներով եւ ազգօ-
գութ գործերով վեր. Դոկտ. Զօփուրեան ձշմարիտ հոգե-
ւորական առաջնորդի դեր կատարած է իրբեւ «Մշակ-
արժանի» Ամերիկայի Հայոց Աւետարանչական Ընկե-
րակցութեան տպավոր Համազգային նկարագիր մը:
Վաստահ ենք որ ԱՄԱԱն անվերապահօրէն պիտի
շարունակէ այս ընդհանուրական ուղղով աւելի ընդլայնե-
լու իր գործունէութիւնները, եւ ազգաշխնական բարի
արդիւնքներով պիտի ուրախացնէ՝ վաստակաշատ իր
մշակին հետ՝ նաև համայն Ազգը:

Ա. Գ. ՃԻԶՄԵԺԵԱՆ
Պրոբիլո, Քանատա

Նկատելի մեծագոյն երեսոյթը սա՞ է, որ
Աւետարանչականի Վարիչ Տնօրինի ծառայութեանց
դաշտը ծաւալեցաւ՝ Հայ Աւետարանական մասնակի
շրջանակէն շատ աւելի՝ համայն Հայ Ազգին մեծագոյն
կամարին։ Ուստի հարկ է եւ արդար, որ Զօփուրեանի
անձին ու գործին գնահատանքը կատարուի համազգային
յարգանքի արտայայտութեամբ։ Առաւելապէս իր տնօրիչ-
յութեան օրով է որ Աւետարանչականի գործունէութիւնը
նույնական կարեւորութիւն ստացաւ։ Եւ այսօր Ա.
համահայկական կարեւորութիւնը ընդհանրապէս ճանչեած
է. Ա. Ընկերակցութիւնը ընդհանրապէս ճանչեած
համազգային հաստատութիւն մը դարձած է իր
կրօնական, կրթական, մարդասիրական ու մշակութային
բազմատեսակ գործունէութիւններովը, ամէն տեղ ուր
չաւ կաւ։

ո՞ւ ձը գնահատելով Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերական առաջնորդության որպաշտումը պատուել Ձեզ, ձեր հանդստեած ելուն առթիւ, անհուն գոյնունակութեամբ կը լեցն առաջին սրտերը:

կասկած որ ձեր հետացումը անմիջական վարչական անգիտություն մեծ բաց մը պիտի թողու, սակայն կը հաւաք թէ ձեր տարիներու արդիւնաբեր փորձառութիւն, ներկայ պիտի ըլլայ մեր հոգեւոր, կրթական ե-



Քարոզութեան: Վերք. Ներսէս Խաչատրութեանի եւ Լ. Աբրահամեանի հետ կը յանախէ Լօզանի «Էմբառու» Սրբ. Գրոց Դպրոցը, եւ 1931ին, իր ուսուուր աւարտելէ ետք, կը մեկնի Հա Սրբառադէս աւետարանից: 1935ին, կը հաստատուի Մարտէլ, եւ Վերք. Ղաղաքանանի հետ գործակցաբար կը հիմնէ Քաղուսէի եւ Սէնթ Անժելանի եկեղեցիները: 1938ին որպէս աւետարանից կը զրկուի Միջազգայի աւետարանը քարոզելու Քիւրտ ցեղախումբերու: 1940ին, կը հանդիպի միսիոնարունի Հետական Սանտըրգի եւ նոյն տարին կ'ամուսնանայ անոր հետ Հայէկի մէջ: 1943ին, Վերք. եւ Տիկ. Պագապահէն, կը կորսնցնեն իրենց մէկ հատիկ զաւակը՝ Դանիէլը: Նոյն տարին, Վերք. Պագապահէն, հիւանդ ու տկար վիճակի մէջ կ'անցնի Երուազէմ եւ կը հետեւ «Նիւմըն» Դպրոցի Արաբերէն լեզուի դասընթացքներու: 1945ին, կը ծառայէ Երուազէմի Հայ Նազովրեցի եկեղեցին մէջ որպէս Հովիլ, եւ այդ շրջանին կը Հրատարակէ իր քերթուածներու երեք հատորները՝ «Յեղիս Զայնը», «Լուսակունք» եւ «Ժառանգութեան Հայրերու»:

Վերք. Պագապահէն, որպէս Հովիլ Հովիլ կը ձեռնազրուի 1948ին, եւ նոյն տարին կը ստանձնէ Սէն Լուրի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին Հովուութիւնը: 1950ին, կը ստանձնէ «Բանքեր»ի խմբագրութեան պաշտօնը, եւ իր խմբագրութեան շրջանին, «Բանքեր»ը կը զարգանայ թէ սպաքանակով եւ թէ ալ բովանդակութեամբ, գառնակով Հովիլ Հայ գրականութիւնը ներկայացնող ամենաընտիր Վերք. Պագապահէն, որպէս Հովիլ Հովիլ կը մեռնազրուի:

1966-1976 տարիներուն, Վերք. Պագապահէն կը վարէ Ֆրանսայի Հայ Աւետարանական Սրբութեան Նախագահի պաշտօնը: Այդ տարիներուն, որպէս աւետարանի կը շրջի Ֆրանսայի տարբեր շրջանները, ինչպէս նաև կ'այցելէ Լիբանան, Սուրբա, Իրաք, Իրան, Թուրքիա, Միացեալ նահանգներ, Պրագի, Արժանթին եւ Ռուսկուայ: Թուրքիա



կատարած իր մէկ աւետարանչական այցելութեան աւարտին, կը ձեռնարկէ յասուկ արշակ մը՝ փրկելու Անստոլուի շրջանի հայ մանուկները սասոյդ թրքացումէ ու կորուսաէ: 1971ին առիթը կ'ունենայ այցելելու Հայաստան, եւ իր հայրենասեսի յուշերը՝ մեծ խանդավարութեամբ կը Հրատարակէ «Բանքեր» մէջ: 1974ին պաշտօնապէս հանգստեան կոչուելէ ետք՝ ինքինք ամբողջութեամբ կը նուիրէ Հովեւոր Հայ գրականութեան, եւ յաջորդաբար, կը Հրատարակէ Հովեւորապէս հարուստ բովանդակութեամբ երեք հատորներ՝ «Քաղցրութիւն», «Լոյս Գիշերուան մէջ», եւ «Գոյապատճառը կեանքիս»:

Վերջին յիսուն տարիներուն, իր բեղուն զրիչով եւ Հայ Աւետարանական բազմաթիւ եկեղեցիներու, Ֆրանսայի Հայ Աւետարանական Սրբութեան, «Բանքեր»ի եւ աւետարանչական մեծ թիւով ձեռնարկներու մէջ կատարած իր ծառայութիւններով, Վերք. Պագապահէն անկրկնելի գեր մը խաղաց Հայ Աւետարանական Նարդումի հարազատ ոգին անմար պահելու սրբազն գործին մէջ:

Վերք. Պագապահէնի մահնով, մասնաւրապէս Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին, եւ ընդհանրապէս հայ ժողովուրդը, կը կորսնցնէ բազմատաղանդ ու բազմավասար Հովիլ մը, որ իր կեանքով, խօսքով ու գորով արտայայեց Քրիստոն սէլը: Իր հիւսած քերթուածներով երեց իր ազգին ցաւերը, Հրաշափառ յարութիւնը ու Աստուածաշունչ յոյսերը: եւ իր կեանքի բոլոր օրերուն, խօսքհութեամբ ու անսակարկ նուիրումով ծառայեց իր Տէրոջ ու իր ժողովուրդին:

Վերք. Սամուէլ եւ Տիկ. Հիւսած Պագապահէն-Քրիստոսի ու Անոր եկեղեցին եւ Հայ ժողովուրդին համար ապրուած երկու կեանքեր, որոնց համար բիւր փառք Աստուածոյ:

«Երանելի են այն մեռելները՝ որոնք Տէրոջմով կը ննջեն: Այո՛, կ'ըսէ Հովին, որ իրենց աշխատութենէն հանդիշին ու իրենց գործերը իրենց ետեւէն կ'երթան»: Յայտն. 14-13



ANNOUNCING THE 68TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

The Sixty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), will be held on Sunday, October 18, 1987 at 1:30 p.m. at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, 100 North Edmonds Avenue, Havertown, Pennsylvania.

All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the meeting to:

- Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Executives, Committees, Chapters and Affiliated Boards of the Association for fiscal 1986-87;
- Consider and approve the financial reports for fiscal 1986-87;
- Elect six Board members to replace those whose term has expired and four additional Board members in fulfillment of the requirements of Article VII, Section 2, of the By-Laws of the Association—raise the number of Directors from twenty-one to twenty seven—as amended at the 67th Annual Meeting;
- Elect four members to the Nominating Committee;
- Elect an Auditor;
- Consider and approve the Association's budget for fiscal 1987-88;
- Consider and act upon any other business that may legitimately come before the membership.

PROGRAM OF THE 68TH ANNUAL MEETING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 10, 11, 1987—AMAA Headquarters, Paramus, NJ.
MONDAY & TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12 & 13—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26—Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA.

The AMAA President, Nazar Y. Daghlian, and the Board of Directors look forward with great anticipation to the presence, participation and input of all ministers and members of churches, representatives of AMAA Chapters and Missions Committees as well as members and friends of the Association.

For further information on the 68th Annual Meeting and the above listed activities, please call or write to:
Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ, 07652. Telephone: (201) 265-2607/2608.

OBITUARIES

Sympathies extended: - The Board of Directors, the Executive Director, the Field Directors and the staff, all of whom are acquainted with the deceased, their families and relatives through the AMAA records, extend their sincere and deep sympathies to the immediate kin, relatives and friends of the deceased, whose obituaries, transmitted to the Editor by pastors, friends or relatives, are recorded below.

"Let not your heart be troubled," said our Lord, "ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you. . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself." (Jo. 14:1-3). This is the hope by which we should all live.

DICRAN ARAM BERBERIAN



Dicran Aram Berberian

Dicran Aram Berberian, 46, of Easton, MD, a former Loudonville resident and abstract-expressionist painter, died of cancer on July 13, 1987 in Albany, NY.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, he had lived in Loudonville, NY for many years. He was a graduate of the Milne School in Albany, the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute), Columbia University and the Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Before becoming a professional artist, he had been Assistant Director of the Armenian General Benevolent Union of America, Assistant Director of the Armenian Assembly and national program manager for refugee resettlement programs for ACTION during the Carter Administration.

As an artist, he created large canvases depicting places from Armenian history. He worked in a former Episcopal church in Easton, which he had renovated for his studio and residence. The building now is on the National Register of Historic Places.

He was a founding member of the Loudonville Community Church and was a member of the Central Committee of the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

Survivors include his father, Dr. Dicran Abraham Berberian, and mother, Armine Berberian, both of Loudonville. Dr. Berberian

is a professor emeritus of microbiology at the Albany Medical College and a former research scientist and physician at the Sterling Winthrop Research Institute in Rensselaer.

Other survivors include his sister, Dr. Thomas (Cynthia B.) Hale of Katmandu, Nepal; and brother, Raffi R. Berberian of Boston, Mass.

ONNIG KABOOLIAN

Onnig Kaboolian died on June 5, 1987. He was born in Egin, Armenia. In 1915, he was only eight years old when he was exiled. For the next ten years, Onnig stayed with the chief of Morhamam, becoming his shepherd and sharing in the customs and beliefs of the people that raised him. During that time, his family tried repeatedly to rescue him but failed because Onnig was under the mistaken impression that his family had not survived. The third attempt at rescue finally succeeded.

In 1925, Onnig arrived in Syria. He spent the following three years in Syria and Marseilles/France with his aunt Peruz. Eagerly trying to make up for his lack of formal education, he learned French and became quite fluent in that language.

In 1928, Onnig entered the United States of America and was finally reunited with his mother, Rebecca; brothers Karekin and Haigaz; his sisters, Varsenig, Elizabeth and Virginia; with his uncle Hagop and cousins Kegham, Haig, Boghos and their families in addition to several cousins on his mother's side. He, who had thought himself without any family at all, was now surrounded by relatives.

Onnig was a veteran of the Second World War. He worked in the F.D.R. Veteran's Hospital for 20 years, side by side, with his late wife, Annaliese Kullmann.

Onnig Kaboolian had a brilliant mind. As soon as he learned to speak, write and read in English, he never stopped reading. He studied the Christian religion thoroughly and until his death read the Armenian bible every day. He studied Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, just to mention a few of the philosophers whose works he read. He had original, often unconventional, but always mind-stirring ideas about practically any subject from astronomy

to politics. There was absolutely nothing one could not talk to him about, but he would offer his opinion. He was an honest man; and he had a warm and generous heart. As one of his neighbors said, "If you meet just one like him in your lifetime, you are lucky."

HAIG DAGDIGIAN

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on November 21, 1916, Mr. Haig Dagdigian entered his eternal rest on July 18, 1987 in Atlantic City, NJ.

Haig, known as "Uncle Haig" amongst his family, graduated from West Philadelphia High School and was married to Nevert Buchakjian on September 11, 1936. Haig was popular throughout the community and was best known for his dedication to his church services. As a member of the Armenian Martyrs Congregational Church, he was involved in all areas of the life of the church. He was a member of the Building Fund Committee, a member of the Board of Trustees, Advisor to the Pilgrim Youth Fellowship, Chairman of the Annual July 4th Picnic and participated in many church functions.

His activities in the community were extensive and helpful. He established the 69th Street Athletic Association in 1952, which is still in existence today; he worked with the Delaware Chamber of Commerce; he established membership with the Ridley Township Businessmen's Association; and was an Upper Darby Committeeman.

Haig had valuable characteristics; he was gregarious, enjoying the fellowship of people and seeking them out for work and fellowship. He was open and a social creature. In all things he undertook, he showed an unexcelled liveliness, was friendly, ready to help, caring, and a person who could not hurt anyone, even if he tried.

Haig worked during his entire 50-year career in the dry-cleaning business, first as a driver then up the rung of the ladder to own his own dry-cleaning establishment. He retired in 1986.

Haig is survived by his wife, Nevert; daughter Marie (Pete) Barnes and their children, Joseph and James Barnes; son,

Haig, Jr., married to Joyce Pickering, and their children, Melissa and Susan Dagdigian. The Board of Directors extend sincere deep sympathies to Haig's immediate family, extensive relatives and large number of friends.

YERANOODY KOURIAN

Submitted by Pauline Kourian Vick

Yeranoody Kourian, wife of the late Harootoon Kourian, passed away on June 9, 1987 in Lancaster, CA. She was born in Aintab, Turkey, and had just turned 95 on May 24th of this year.

She is survived by her son Arthur of Valencia, CA, and her daughter Pauline Vick of Lancaster, CA. She was grandmother of 6 and a great-grandmother of eleven. She is also survived by brothers, Joseph Sanossian of Hesperia, CA; Hagop Sanossian of Van Nuys, CA; a sister Bydjor Sannossian of Van Nuys, CA; and many nieces and nephews.

Yeranoody was a dedicated and devout Christian who nurtured her family in God's love and salvation, right on down to her great grand-children. She taught Sunday School over a period of 75 years, from Aintab to New York City, then on to California. She taught at the Armenian Brethren Church on Third Ave., N.Y.C., then continued many more years at the First Baptist Church of Van Nuys where she was a long-standing member.

Her love for children enabled her to enjoy teaching the love of Christ to young ones. Many of her students who later became teachers, doctors, or engineers sought her out to thank her for the love of Christ she had instilled in them. Their children became her students too. Aside from teaching, she visited shut-ins, praying with them and seeing to their needs. She also sang in the choir, and supported many ministries. She drove her car till she was 87 years old.

All those who knew her are saddened by her death, but will find comfort in knowing she has gone to be with the Saviour whom she loved so dearly.

She always looked forward to "going home".

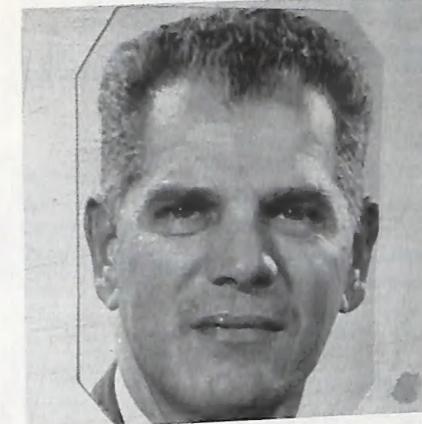
ARAM ANSBIGIAN DAVID

Aram Ansbigian David made the transition from this life on Saturday, May 23, 1987.

Aram was born in Roxbury, MA on September 8, 1917. His parents were Julia and Oscar Ansbigian David.

From 1950 to 1965, Aram and his family lived in Winthrop, MA. He was a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II and a past commander of American Legion Post 146 of Winthrop of which he was a member for 37 years.

For the past 22 years he was a resident of Danvers, MA.



Aram Ansbigian David

He worked for many years in the Cobden Market, Roxbury, MA, a family business. His expertise was in managing shoe departments until his retirement in 1979.

Aram was a family man, and well liked by young and old alike. His many relatives and friends will miss him very much.

He is survived by his wife, Agnes (Manoogian) David; a daughter, Mrs. Berj (Marjorie) Zamanian of Burlington; a son, Jeffrey of Foxboro; four grandchildren: Jennifer, Alexander, Aniel and Marianne; two sisters, Mrs. Beulah E. Sarkisian and Mrs. Satineg Parsekian; and a brother, Berje (Ansbigian) David of Brookline, MA.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc.

MARJORIE ALICE GULEZIAN

Marjorie Alice (Garabedian) Gulezian of Windham, New Hampshire, died the evening of April 11 at the Elliott Hospital in Manchester, NH after a long illness. She was fifty-six. Alice was born and lived in Providence, RI until her marriage in June, 1951 to Haig Gulezian. Following their marriage they resided in Caldwell, New Jersey, where Alice worked as the assistant librarian at the James Caldwell high school until 1970 when the family moved to New Hampshire. There she was employed for several years by New England Telephone as a service representative.

She was a member of the New Jersey Order of the Eastern Star, and parishioner of the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church in Salem, New Hampshire.

She is survived by her husband, Haig Gulezian of Windham; one son, Richard Gulezian of Windham; and one daughter, Mrs. Harold (Robin) Kazanjian of Haverhill, MA; two grandchildren, Elyse Maritza Kazanjian and Casey Sarkis Kazanjian of Haverhill, MA; and her mother, Mrs. Nartouhe Garabedian of Windham, NH.

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.

*Haroutunian, Barkev
Milbridge, ME March 17, 1987

Cummings, Marian
Dayton Beach, FL March 29, 1987

Bakalian, Rev. Samuel
Marseille, France April 16, 1987

*Boyajian, Drtdad
Winchester, MA April 20, 1987

Mechigian, Armen
Oak Park, MI April 22, 1987

*Atanigian, Mariam
Beirut, Lebanon April 28, 1987

Kehayaian, Dick
Massachusetts April 28, 1987

Kazangian, Marguerite
Bakersfield, CA May 1, 1987

Merjanian, Esther
Arlington, MA May 8, 1987

Noorigian, Florence
Long Key, FL May 19, 1987

Krikorian, Angel
Watertown, MA May 20, 1987

Sariboghosian, Badaschan
Watertown, MA May 21, 1987

*David, Aram
Danvers, MA May 23, 1987

Roubian, James
Massachusetts May 23, 1987

*Minassian, Edward
Ohio May 30, 1987

**Chebishian, Samuel
Pasadena, CA June 7, 1987

Manissadjian, Roxie
Fresno, CA June 18, 1987

*Kourian, Yeranoody
Lancaster, CA June 19, 1987

Chooljian, Ellen
Fresno, CA June 27, 1987

Googooian, Alex
Southern CA July 1, 1987

Berberian, Dicran
Loudonville, NY July 13, 1987

*Malian, Arthur
Montville, NJ July 15, 1987

Griggs (Benneyan), Aroos
Bridgeport, CT July 16, 1987

Daghdigian, Haig
Atlantic City, NJ July 18, 1987

Apovian, Harry
Plattsburg, NY July 28, 1987

*Astigian, Charles
San Francisco, CA

*Brady, Danny
Janjanian, Siranoosh
Pennsylvania

*Memorials were designated for AMAA.

**Bequest Assigned.

11 KINDS OF LIFE INSURANCE GIFTS TO AMAA OR YOUR CHURCH

Life insurance began as a protection plan more than 200 years ago. Today it is a one-and-one-half trillion dollar business. The average family owns nearly \$25,000 worth of life insurance. For many a gift of life insurance to AMAA or their church would not only be convenient, but would enable them to give more, with greater satisfaction, than they could otherwise give.

Consider these eleven kinds of life insurance gifts you could assign to AMAA or Your Church:

- 4 kinds of obsolete policy gifts:
 - Give the "childhood" policy on yourself
 - Give a policy purchased to protect a spouse now deceased
 - Give a policy purchased for the children's education, now complete
 - Give a policy purchased to cover a mortgage now paid
- Assign your life insurance dividends
- Name your charity as the primary beneficiary
- Name your charity as the co-beneficiary - a tithe
- Name your charity as the secondary beneficiary
- Name your charity as the remainder beneficiary
- Name your charity as the residual beneficiary of a supplementary life insurance contract with widow or retiree
- Purchase a new policy to guarantee a large pledge to be paid put over several years. This is a way for even the person of very modest income (but with a high degree of giving interest) to make an exceptional lifetime gift to his/her church - "on the installment plan." The premiums paid annually or semi-annually provide for several thousands of dollars at death of the insured. Premiums and benefits are tax exempt.

If interested in procedure as to how to request changes for life insurance policies for assignment to your preferred charity, please write to the AMAA.

Armenian Missionary Association of America
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652

WHAT'S YOUR POLICY DOING THERE?

Maybe you don't even know about that small life insurance policy, now paid up, that was taken out by your parents when you were a child.

Obsolete policies - they are sometimes called, because they are no longer serving the purpose for which they were bought - such as providing a child's education, or protecting a business that has been sold.



Consider the giving power in these life insurance policies, a way to put some of your sleeping assets to work for the kingdom of God. There are 12 other ways to give life insurance to your church. Write for a free copy of the booklet offered here. No obligation.

CLIP AND MAIL TODAY

To: Planned Giving Department
Armenian Missionary Association of America
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ. 07652

Please send me a free copy of the booklet, "Giving Through Life Insurance."

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